CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A computer implemented method for determining the market demand for an artist comprising:

      receiving user input to determine which artist to select from a pool of artists;

      determining the market demand for said selected artist based on users contributing to a fund for said artist; and

      identifying artists that attain a predefined level of user contributions.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said user input is in the form of user votes.

3.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising giving users contributing to an artist who attains a predefined level of user contributions a recognition certificate regarding said artist.

4.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising making available to each artist attaining a predefined level of user contribution funds from the users' contribution to the artist to produce and commercialize the artist.

5.   A method according to claim 4 wherein comprising using said funds to produce a record from said funds when said artist is a musician.

6.   A method according to claim 5 further comprising providing said artist the entire fund based on the completion of a predefined criteria.

7.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising maintaining information on said users, and using said information to market said artist.

8.   A method according to claim 1 comprising limiting the number of users permitted to contribute to said artist to a predefined number.

9.   An apparatus for determining the market demand for an artist comprising:

means for receiving user input to determine which artist to select from a pool of artists;

means for determining the market demand for said selected artist based on users contributing to a fund for said artist; and

means for identifying selected artists that attain a predefined level of user contributions.

10.   A method for an artist to obtain financial support comprising:

receiving and storing on a file server a sample of the artist work;

evaluating the stored artist work from a pool of artists;

selecting an artist based on said artist's work to be eligible for financial contributions from users; and

establishing a fund of any such contributions for an artist who meets a predefined criteria.

11.   The method of claim 10 further comprising making the fund available to the artist to produce a musical record.

12.   The method of claim 10 further comprising releasing the fund to the artist based on artist meeting predefined criteria.

13.   The method of claim 10 further comprising returning the selected artist to the pool of artists if artist fails to meet predefined criteria.

14.   The method of claim 10 wherein selecting an artist to be eligible for financial support is based on the artist who attains the largest number of user votes.

15.   The method of claim 10 wherein selecting an artist to be eligible for financial support is determined by a panel of individuals.

16.   The method of claim 10 wherein selecting an artist to be eligible for financial support is determined in part by a panel of individuals and in part by user votes.

17.   A computer implemented system for determining the market demand for an artist comprising:

a file server; and

a processor programmed for implementing instructions for:

receiving and storing user input on said file server to determine which artist to select from a pool of artists;

determining the market demand for said selected artist based on users contributing to a fund for said artist; and

identifying artists that attain a predefined level of user contributions.

18.   The system according to claim 17 further comprising instructions for refunding user contributions in the fund if the artist fails to attain a predefined level of user support.

19.   A system according to claim 17 further comprising instructions for redistributing user contributions in a different fund if artist fails to attain a predefined level of user contributions.

20.   The system of claim 17 further comprising instructions for selecting artists from a pool of artists using inputs from a panel of individuals.

21.   The system of claim 17 wherein the number of artists that can be selected to receive financial support from the pool of artists is predefined.

22.   A computer implemented system for presenting artists to determine market demand for artists comprising a computer programmed having instructions for implementing the method of:

receiving and storing the work of artists on a file server;

dividing the stored received works into categories;

selecting works from categories;

elevating selected works into positions that are eligible to receive financial support from users; and

promoting the artists who receive a predefined amount of financial contributions

23.   The system of claim 22 comprising instructions for limiting the number of

positions available to receive financial contributions from users.

24.   An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

   receive user input to determine which artist to select from a pool of artists;

   determine the market demand for said selected artist based on users contributing to a fund for said artist; and

   identify artists that attain a predefined level of user contributions.

25.   The article of claim 24 wherein users select and contribute to an artist through a network connection.

26.   A computer implemented apparatus for determining market demand for an artist comprising:

   means for receiving and storing works of artists;

   means for enabling users to access the stored works;

   means for receiving user input to elevate artist from the general artist pool;

   means for making elevated artists eligible for financial contributions from users; and

   means for making financial contributions from users available to artists that meet predefined criteria.